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COLONIAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL

EDITED BY

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART AND EDWARD CHANNING,  
OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

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## DOCUMENTS

DESCRIBING

### THE VOYAGE OF JOHN CABOT IN 1497.

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The first European to see the Continent of North America after the period of the Northmen was John Cabot, a native of Genoa, who had been naturalized at Venice and had resided there for some years. John Cabot sailed from Bristol, England, and prosecuted his voyage under a license from Henry VII., King of England. The voyage was made in 1497. Cabot's landfall has been much disputed. Dr. Charles Deane regarded the Island of Cape Breton as the first land seen, because the words *prima terra vista* were placed against it by the maker of the "Cabot Map" of 1544; but Mr. Henry Harrisse, the last writer on the subject, thinks the landfall was very much further north in the vicinity of Hudson's Bay.

John Cabot's son, Sebastian, became in later life a man of considerable mark and authority. With his name, therefore, was associated whatever glory and honor gathered to the name of Cabot. It is only within recent years that documents have been discovered showing conclusively that it was the father and not the son who was in command of this memorable expedition. These documents are herewith printed. Especially noteworthy is the letter of Raimondo, or Raimundus, to the Duke of Milan dated London, December 18th, 1497, which was first printed in English by Dr. Deane in his chapter in the "Narrative and Critical History of America," Vol. III., p. 54; and is here printed through the courtesy of

the publishers, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and of the editor, Mr. Justin Winsor. This letter and the previous one from the same writer of August 24th, 1497, the letter of Lorenzo Pasqualigo dated London, August 23d, 1497, are all contemporary documents written in England within a short time of John Cabot's return from his voyage. They leave no doubt whatever as to the discovery itself or as to the commander. It is upon this discovery of John Cabot's that the claim of England to North America was based. There are also printed with these contemporary documents the earliest accounts of this voyage which will show how the error as to John and Sebastian Cabot arose. For further references see "Narrative and Critical History of America," Vol. III., chap. i.

I. 1496, March 5, LETTERS PATENT OF KING HENRY VII.

*Pro Johanne Caboto & Filiis suis super Terra Incognita Investiganda.*

Rex omnibus, ad quos &c. Salutem.

NOTUM SIT ET MANIFESTUM quòd Dedimus & Concessimus, ac per Præsentes Damus & Concedimus, pro Nobis & Hæredibus nostris, Dilectis Nobis *Johanni Cabotto* Civi Venetiarum, ac *Lodovico, Sebastiano, & Sancto*, Filiis dicti *Johannis*, & eorum ac cujuslibet eorum Hæredibus & Deputatis, plenam ac liberam Auctoritatem, Facultatem & Protestatem Navigandi ad omnes Partes, Regiones, & Sinus Maris Orientalis Occidentalis, & Septentrionalis, sub Banneris Vexillis & Insigniis nostris, cum Quinque Navibus sive Navigiis, cujuscumque Portituræ & Qualitatis existant, & cum tot & tantis Nautis & Hominibus, quot & quantis in dictis Navibus secum ducere voluerint, suis & eorum propriis Sumptibus & Expensis.

*Ad inveniendum, Discooperiendum & Investigandum quas-cumque Insulas, Patrias, Regiones sive Provincias Gentilium & Infidelium, in quacumque Parte Mundi prositas, quæ Christianis omnibus ante hæc tempora fuerunt incognita.*

Concessimus etiam eisdem & eorum cuilibet, eorumque & cujuslibet eorum Hæredibus & Deputatis, ac Licentiam dedimus Affigendi prædictas Banneras nostras & Insignia in quacumque Villa, Oppido, Castro, Insula seu Terra firma a se noviter inventis.

Et quòd prænominati *Johannes* & Filii ejusdem, seu Hæredes & eorum Deputati quibuscumque hujusmodi Villas, Castra, Oppida & Insulas a se inventas, quæ Subjugari, Occupari & Possideri possint, Subjugare, Occupare & Possidere valeant,

tanquam Vasalli nostri & Gubernatores, Locatenentes & Deputati eorundem, Dominium Titulum & Jurisdictionem eorundem Vallarum, Castrorum, Oppidorum, Insularum, ac Terræ firmæ sic inventarum, Nobis acquirendo;

Ita tamen ut ex omnibus Fructibus, Proficuis, Emolumentis Commodis, Lucris & Obventionibus, ex hujusmodi Navigatione provenientibus, præfati *Johannes* & Filii, ac Hæredes & eorum Deputati teneantur & sint obligati Nobis, pro omno Viagio suo, totiens quotiens ad Portum nostrum Bristolliae applicuerint, ad quem, omninò applicare teneantur & sint astricti, deductis omnibus Sumptibus & Impensis necessariis per eosdem factis, *Quintam Partem totius Capitalis Lucri sui facti* sive in Mercibus sive in Pecuniis persolvere;

Dantes Nos & Concendentes eisdem suisque Hæredibus & Deputatis ut ab omni Solutione Custumarum omnium & singulorum Bonorum ac Mercium, quas secum report arint ab illis Locis sic noviter inventis, Liberi sint & Immunes.

Et insuper Dedimus & Concessimus Eisdem ac suis Hæredibus & Deputatis, quòd Terræ omnes Firmæ, Insulæ, Villæ, Oppida, Castra, & Loca quæcumque, a se inventa, quotquot ab eis inveniri contigerit non possint ab aliis quibusvis nostris Subditis frequentari seu visitari, absque Licentia *prædictorum Johannis* & ejus Filiorum, suorumque Deputatorum, sub Pœna Amissionis tam Navium sive Navigiorum quàm Bonorum omnium quorumcumque ad ea Loca sic inventa Navigare præsumendum;

Volentes & strictissimè Mandantes omnibus & singulis nostris Subditis, tam in Terra quàm in Mare constitutis, ut *præfacto Johanni* & ejus Filiis ac Deputatis bonam Assistentiam faciant, & tam in Armandis Navibus seu Navigiis quàm in Provisione Commeatûs & Victualium pro sua Pecunia emendorum, atque aliarum Rerum sibi providendarum, pro dictâ Navigatione sumendarum, suos omnes Favores & Auxilia impartiantur.

In cujus &c.

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, quinto  
die Martii.

*Per ipsum Regem.*

Rymer's *Fœdera*, Vol. XII., pp. 595, 596.



## II. 1496, March .5, TRANSLATION OF THE ABOVE.

The Letters patents of King Henry the seuenth granted vnto Iohn Cabot and his three sonnes, Lewis, Sebastian, and Sancius for the discouerie of new and vnknowne lands.

Henry by the grace of God, King of England and France, and lord of Ireland, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

Be it knowne that we haue giuen and granted, and by these presents do giue and grant for vs and our heires, to our wel-beloued Iohn Cabot citizen of Venice, to Lewis, Sebastian, and Santius, sonnes of the said Iohn, and to the heires of them, and euery of them, and their deputies, full and free authority, leaue, and power to saile to all parts, countries, and seas of the East, of the West, and of the North, under our banners and ensignes, with fīue ships of what burthen or quantity soeuer they be, and as many marines or men as they will haue with them in the sayd ships, vpon their owne proper costs and charges, to seeke out, discouer, and finde whatsoeuer isles, countries, regions or prouinces of the heathen and infidels whatsoeuer they be, and in what part of the world soeuer they be, which before this time haue bene vnknownen to all Christians: we haue granted to them, and also to euery of them, the heires of them, and their deputies, and haue giuen them licence to set vp our banners and ensignes in euery village, towne, castle, isle, or maine land of them newly found. And that the aforesaid Iohn and his sonnes, or their heires and assignes may subdue, occupy and possesse all such townes, cities, castles and isles of them found, which they can subdue, occupy and possesse, as our vassals, and lieutenants, getting vnto vs the rule, title, and iurisdiction of the same villages, townes, castles, and firme land so found.

Yet so that the aforesaid Iohn, and his sonnes and heires, and their deputies, be holden and bounden of all the fruits, profits, gaines, and commodities growing of such nauigation, for euery their voyage, as often as they shall arriue at our port of Bristoll (at the which port they shall be bound and holden only to arriue) all maner of, necessary costs and charges by them made, being deducted, to pay vnto vs in wares or money the fift part of the capitall gain so gotten. We giuing and granting vnto them and to their heires and deputies, that they

shall be free from all paying of customes of all and singular such merchandize as they shall bring with them from those places so newlie found.

And moreouer, we haue giuen and granted to them, their heires and deputies, that all the firme lands, isles, villages, townes, castles and places whatsoever they be that they shall chance to finde, may not of any other of our subiects be frequented or visited without the licence of the foresayd Iohn and his sonnes, and their deputies, vnder payne of forfeiture as well of their ships as of all and singular goods of all them that shall presume to saile to those places so found. Willing, and most straightly commanding all and singular our subjects as well on land as on sea, appointed officers, to giue good assistance to the aforesaid Iohn, and his sonnes and deputies, and that as well in arming and furnishing their ships or vessels, as in prouision of quietnesse, and in buying of victuals for their money, and all other things by them to be provided necessary for the sayd navigation, they do giue them all their helpe and fauour. In witnesse whereof we haue caused to be made these our lettres patents. Witnesse our selfe at Westminster, the fift day of March, in the eleuenth yeere of our reigne.—Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations*, ed. 1589, p. 510.

This patent was granted in reply to the following application by John Cabot:

“To the Kyng our Souveraigne lord,

“Please it your highnes of your moste noble and haboundant grace to graunt vnto Iohn Cabotto, citezen of Venes, Lewes, Sebestyan and Sancto his sonneys your gracious lettres patentees vnder your grete seale in due forme to be made according to the tenour hereafter ensuying. And they shall during their lyves pray to God for the prosperous continuance of your moste noble and royale astate long to enduer.”—Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations*, Goldsmid's ed. XII, 22, Note.

### III. 1497, Aug. 23. LETTER OF LORENZO PASQUALIGO TO HIS BROTHERS, MERCHANTS OF VENICE.

752. LORENZO PASQUALIGO [residing in London] to his Brothers ALVISE and FRANCESCO.

The Venetian, our countryman, who went with a ship from Bristol in quest of new islands, is returned, and says that 700

leagues hence he discovered land, the territory of the Grand Cham (*Gram Cam*). He coasted for 300 leagues and landed; saw no human beings, but he has brought hither to the King certain snares which had been set to catch game, and a needle for making nets; he also found some felled trees, wherefore he supposed there were inhabitants, and returned to his ship in alarm.

He was three months on the voyage, and on his return he saw two islands to starboard, but would not land, time being precious, as he was short of provisions. He says that the tides are slack and do not flow as they do here. The King of England is much pleased with this intelligence.

The King has promised that in the spring our countryman shall have ten ships, armed to his order, and at his request has conceded him all the prisoners, except such as are confined for high treason, to man his fleet. The King has also given him money wherewith to amuse himself till then, and he is now at Bristol with his wife, who is also Venetian, and with his sons; his name is Juan Cabot, and he is styled the great admiral. Vast honour is paid him; he dresses in silk, and these English run after him like mad people, so that he can enlist as many of them as he pleases, and a number of our own rogues besides.

The discoverer of these places planted on his new-found land a large cross, with one flag of England and another of S. Mark, by reason of his being a Venetian, so that our banner has floated very far afield.

London, 23 August 1497.

*Calendars of State Papers, Venetian, 1202-1509, p. 262.*

#### IV. 1497, Aug. 24. RAIMUNDUS, AGENT OF THE DUKE OF MILAN, TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

And first of all that, by God's grace, the King and the whole court were in good condition, and on the 17th August were at a place called Woodstock, 50 miles from London, where it was said that they would reside until Michaelmas, more or less according to circumstances. . . .

Also some months ago his Majesty sent out a Venetian, who is a very good mariner, and has good skill in discovering new islands, and he has returned safe, and has found two very

large and fertile new islands; having likewise discovered the seven cities, 400 leagues from England, on the western passage. This next spring his Majesty means to send him with fifteen or twenty ships.

Also, the Kingdom of England has never for many years been so obedient to its Sovereign as it is at present to his Majesty the King.—*Calendars of State Papers, Venetian, 1202–1509*, pp. 259, 260.

#### V. 1497, Dec. 18. THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Most Illustrious and Excellent My Lord:—

Perhaps among your Excellency's many occupations, it may not displease you to learn how his Majesty here has won a part of Asia without a stroke of the sword. There is in this kingdom a Venetian fellow, Master John Caboto by name, of fine mind, greatly skilled in navigation, who seeing that those most serene kings, first he of Portugal, and then the one of Spain, have occupied unknown islands, determined to make a like acquisition for his Majesty aforesaid. And having obtained royal grants that he should have the usufruct of all that he should discover, provided that the ownership of the same is reserved to the crown, with a small ship and eighteen persons he committed himself to fortune; and having set out from Bristol, a western port of this kingdom, and passed the western limits of Hibernia, and then standing to the northward he began to steer eastward, leaving (after a few days) the North Star on his right hand; and, having wandered about considerably, at last he fell in with *terra firma*, where, having planted the royal banner and taken possession on behalf of this King, and taken certain tokens, he has returned thence. The said Master John, as being foreign-born and poor, would not be believed if his comrades, who are almost all Englishmen and from Bristol, did not testify that what he says is true. This Master John has the description of the world in a chart, and also in a solid globe which he has made, and he [or the chart and the globe] shows where he landed, and that going toward the east he passed considerably beyond the country of the Tanais. And they say that it is a very good and temperate country, and they think that Brazil-wood and silks grow there; and they affirm that that sea is covered

with fishes, which are caught not only with the net but with baskets, a stone being tied to them in order that the baskets may sink in the water. And this I heard the said Master John relate, and the aforesaid Englishmen, his comrades, say that they will bring so many fishes that this kingdom will no longer have need of Iceland, from which country there comes a very great store of fish which are called stock-fish. But Master John has set his mind on something greater; for he expects to go farther on toward the East (Levant,) from that place already occupied, constantly hugging the shore, until he shall be over against [or "on the other side of"] an island, by him called Cipango, situated in the equinoctial region, where he thinks all the spices of the world, and also the precious stones, originate; and he says that in former times he was at Mecca, whither spices are brought by caravans from distant countries, and that those who brought them, on being asked where the said spices grow, answered that they do not know, but that other caravans come to their homes with this merchandise from distant countries, and these [caravans] again say that they are brought to them from other remote regions. And he argues thus,—that if the Orientals affirmed to the Southerners that these things come from a distance from them, and so from hand to hand, presupposing the roundness of the earth, it must be that the last ones get them at the North toward the West; and he said it in such a way, that, having nothing to gain or lose by it, I too believe it: and what is more, the King here, who is wise and not lavish, likewise puts some faith in him; for (ever) since his return he has made good provision for him, as the same Master John tells me. And it is said that, in the spring, his Majesty aforesaid will fit out some ships, and will besides give him all the convicts, and they will go to that country to make a colony, by means of which they hope to establish in London a greater storehouse of spices than there is in Alexandria; and the chief men of the enterprise are of Bristol, great sailors, who, now that they know where to go, say that it is not a voyage of more than fifteen days, nor do they ever have storms after they get away from Hibernia. I have also talked with a Burgundian, a comrade of Master John's, who confirms everything, and wishes to return thither because the Admiral (for)

so Master John already entitles himself) has given him an island; and he has given another one to a barber of his from Castiglione-of-Genoa, and both of them regard themselves as Counts, nor does my Lord the Admiral esteem himself anything less than a Prince. I think that with this expedition there will go several poor Italian monks, who have all been promised bishoprics. And, as I have become a friend of the Admiral's, if I wished to go thither I should get an archbishopric. But I have thought that the benefices which your Excellency has in store for me are a surer thing; and therefore I beg that if these should fall vacant in my absence, you will cause possession to be given to me, taking measures to do this rather [especially] where it is needed, in order that they be not taken from me by others, who because they are present can be more diligent than I, who in this country have been brought to the pass of eating ten or twelve dishes at every meal, and sitting at table three hours at a time twice a day, for the sake of your Excellency, to whom I humbly commend myself.

Your Excellency's

Very humble servant,

RAIMUNDUS.

LONDON, Dec. 18, 1497.

*Narrative and Critical History of America*, vol. iii., p. 54.

#### VI. 1544. THE "CABOT MAP."

[This legend is inscribed in Hudson's Bay on the Cabot map of 1544.]

No. 8. This land was discovered by Juan Cabot, a Venetian, and by Sebastian Cabot, his son, in the year of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ 1494, on the 24th of June, in the morning, to which they gave the name of "first land seen" (*prima tierra vista*); and to a large island which is situated along the said land they gave the name San Juan, because it had been discovered the same day. The people of it are dressed in the skins of animals. They use in their wars bows and arrows, lances and darts, and certain clubs of wood, and slings. It is a very sterile land. There are in it many white bears, and very large stags *like horses*, and many other animals; and likewise there is infinite fish,—sturgesons, salmon,

very large soles a yard in length, and many other kinds of fish, —and the greatest quantity of them is called (*baccallaos*) cod-fish; and likewise there are in the same land hawks black as crows, eagles, partridges, *linnets* and many other kinds of birds of different species.—*Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 2nd series, VI., pp. 311 and 333.

VII. 1544. AN EXTRACT TAKEN OUT OF THE MAPPE OF SEBASTIAN CABOT.

In the yeere of our Lord 1494, Iohn Cabot a Venetian, and his sonne Sebastian (with an English fleet set out from Bristol) discovered that land which no man before that time had attempted, on the 24th of Iune, about fve of the clocke early in the morning. This land he called *Prima vista*, that is to say, First seene, because as I suppose it was that part whereof they had the first sight from sea. That Island which lieth out before the land, he called the Island of S. Iohn vpon this occasion, as I thinke, because it was discovered vpon the day of Iohn the Baptist. The inhabitants of this Island vse to weare beasts skinnes, and haue them in as great estimation as we haue our finest garments. In their warres they vse bowes, arrowes, pikes, darts, woodden clubs, and slings. The soile is barren in some places, and yeeldeth little fruit, but it is full of white lions, and stags farre greater than ours. It yeeldeth plenty of fish, and those very great, as seales, and those which commonly we call salmons: there are soles also aboute a yard in length: but especially there is great abundance of that kinde of fish which the Saluages call *Baccalaos*. In the Island also there breed hawks, but they are so blacke, that they are very like to rauens, as also their partridges, and eagles, which are in like sort blacke.—Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations*, ed. 1589, p. 511.

VIII. ANOTHER TESTIMONIE OF THE VOYAGE OF SEBASTIAN CABOT TO THE WEST AND NORTHWEST, TAKEN OUT OF THE SIXT CHAPTER OF THE THIRD DECADE OF PETER MARTYR OF ANGLERIA.

These North seas haue bene searched by one Sebastian Cabot, a Venetian borne, whom being yet but in maner an infant, his parents carried with them into England, hauing

occasion to resort thither for trade of merchandise, as is the maner of the Venetians to leaue no part of the world vnsearched to obtain riches. He therefore furnished two ships in England at his owne charges, and first with 300 men directed his course so farre towards the North pole, that euen in the moneth of Iuly he found monstrous heapes of ice swimming on the sea, and in maner continuall day light, yet saw he the land in that tract free from ice, which had bene molten by the heat of the Sunne. Thus seeing such heapes of ice before him, he was enforced to turne his sailes and follow the West, so coasting still by the shore, that hee was thereby brought so farre into the South, by reason of the land bending so much Southwards, that it was there almost equal in latitude, with the sea Fretum Herculeum, hauing the Northpole eleuate in maner in the same degree. He sailed likewise in this tract so farre towards the West, that hee had the Island of Cuba on his left hand, in maner in the same degree of longitude. As he trauelled by the coasts of this great land, (which he named Baccalaos) he saith that hee found the like course of the waters toward the West, but the same to runne more softly and gently than the swift waters which the Spaniards found in their Nauigations Southwards. Wherefore it is not onely more like to be true, but ought also of necessitie to be concluded that betweene both the lands hitherto vnknown, there should be certaine great open places whereby the waters should thus continually passe from the East vnto the West: which waters I suppose to be driuen about the globe of the earth by the uncessant mouing and impulsion of the heauens, and not to bee swallowed vp and cast vp againe by the breathing of Demogorgon, as some haue imagined, because they see the seas by increase and decrease to ebbe and flowe. Sebastian Cabot himself named those lands Baccalaos, because that in the Seas thereabout hee found so great multitudes of certaine bigge fishes much like vnto Tunies, (which the inhabitants called Baccalaos) that they sometimes stayed his ships. He found also the people of those regions couered with beastes skinnes, yet not without the vse of reason. Hee also saieth there is great plentie of Beares in those regions which vse to eate fishe: for plunging themselues into the water, where they perceiue a multitude of these fishes to lie, they



fasten their clawes in their scales, and so draw them to land and eate them, so (as he saith) the Beares being thus satisfied with fish, are not noisome to men. Hee declareth further, that in many places of these regions he saw great plentie of Laton [copper] among the inhabitants. Cabot is my very friend, whom I vse familiarly, and delight to haue him sometimes keepe me companie in mine owne house. For being called out of England by the commandement of the Catholik King of Castile, after the death of King Henry the seuenth of that name, king of England, he was made one of our council and Assistants, as touching the affaires of the new Indies, looking for ships daily to be furnished for him to discover this hid secret of Nature.—Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations*, ed. 1589, p. 514.

IX. A DISCOURSE OF SEBASTIAN CABOT TOUCHING HIS  
DISCOVERIE OF PART OF THE WEST INDIA. *Ramus*

Doe you not vnderstand sayd hee (speaking to certaine Gentlemen of Venice) how to passe to India toward the North-west winde, as did of late a citizen of Venice, so valiant a man, and so well practised in all things pertaining to nauigations, and the science of Cosmographie, that at this present hee hath not his like in Spaine, insomuch that for his virtues he is preferred aboue all other Pilots that saile to the West Indies, who may not passe thither without his licence, and is therefore called Piloto Maggiore (that is) the grand Pilot. And when we said that wee knew him not, he proceeded, saying, that being certaine yeeres in the city of Siuil, and desirous to haue some knowledge of the Nauigations of the Spaniards, it was told him that there was in the citie a valiant man, a Venetian borne named Sebastian Cabot, who had the charge of those things, being an expert man in that science, and one that could make Cardes for the Sea with his owne hand, and that by this report, seeking his acquaintance, he found him a very gentle person, who intertained him friendly, and shewed him many things, and among other a large mappe of the world, with certaine particuler nauigations, as well of the Portingals, as of the Spaniards, and that he spake further vnto him in this effect.

When my father departed from Venice many yeeres since to dwell in England, to follow the trade of merchandises, he

tooke me with him to the citie of London, while I was very yong, yet hauing neuerthesse some knowledge of letters of humanitie, and of the Sphere. And when my father died in that time when newes were rought that Don Cristopher Colonus Genuese had discouered the coasts of India, whereof was great talke in all the court of king Henry the 7, who then reigned, insomuch that all men with great admiration affirmed it to be a thing more diuine than humane, to saile by West into the East where spices growe, by a way that was neuer knownen before, by this fame and report there increased in my heart a great flame of desire to attempt some notable thing. And vnderstanding by reason of the Sphere, that if I should saile by way of the Northwest winde, I should by a shorter tract come into India, I thereupon caused the king to be aduertised of my deuise, who immediatly caused two Caruels to bee furnished with all things appertayning to the voyage, which was, as farre as I remember, in the yeere 1496 in the beginning of Sommer. I began therefore to saile toward the Northwest, not thinking to finde any other land than that of Cathay, and from thence to turne toward India, but after certaine dayes I found that the land ranne towards the North, which was to me a great displeasure. Neuerthesse, sailing along by the coast to see if I could find any gulfe that turned, I found the lande still continent to the 56. deg. vnder our pole. And seeing that there the coast turned toward the East, despairing to find the passage, I turned backe againe, and sailed downe by the coast of that land toward the Equinoctiall (euer with intent to finde the saide passage to India) and came to that part of this firme lande which is now called Florida, where my victuals failing, I departed from thence and returned into England, where I found great tumults among the people, and preparation for warres in Scotland; by reason whereof there was no more consideration had to this voyage. Whereupon I went into Spaine to the Catholik king, and Queene Elizabeth, which being aduertised what I had done, intertained me, and at their charges furnished certaine ships, wherewith they caused me to saile to discouer the coastes of Brasile, where I found an exceeding great and large riuier named at this present Rio de la plata, that is, the riuier of siluer, into which I sailed and followed it into the firme land, more than

sixe score leagues, finding it euery where very faire, and inhabited with infinite people, which with admiration came running dayly to our ships. Into this Riuer runne so many other riuers, that it is in maner incredible.

After this I made many other voyages, which I nowe pretermitt, and waxing old, I giue myself to rest from such trauels, because there are nowe many yong and lustie Pilots and Mariners of good experience, by whose forwardnesse I doe reioyce in the fruit of my labours, and rest with the charge of this office, as you see.—Hakluyt, *Principall Navigations*, ed. 1589, p. 512.

#### X. GOMARA'S ACCOUNT.

. . . The coaste of the lande of Baccalaos, is a greate tracte: and the greatest altitude therof, is xlviij [forty-eight] degrees and a halfe. Sebastian Cabot was the fyrst that browght any knowlege of this lande. For beinge in Englande in the dayes of kyng Henry the seuenth, he furnysshed twoo shippes at his owne charges or (as sum say) at the kynges, whome he persuaded that a passage might bee founde to Cathay by the north seas, and that spices myght bee brought from thense soner by that way, then by the vyage the Portugales vse by the sea of Sur. He went also to knowe what maner of landes those Indies are to inhabite. He had with hym three hundreth men, and directed his course by the tracte of Islande vppon the cape of Laborador at lviii. [fifty-eight] degrees: affirmynge that in the monethe of July there was such could and heapes of Ice that he durst passe no further: also that the dayes were very longe and in maner without nyght, and the nyghtes very clear. Certeyne it is, that at the lx. [sixty] degrees, the longest day is of xviii. [eighteen] hours. But consyderynge the coulede and the straungenes of the vnknown lande, he turned his course from thense to the West, folowynge the coast of the lande of Baccalaos vnto the xxxviii. [thirty-eight] degrees, from whense he returned to Englande.—Gomara, Eden's translation in his *Three Decades*, ed. 1555, folio 318.

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